Martin O'Malley, *Governor*
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*
Abigail Ross Hopper, *Director*

November 2014 Notice of Grant Availability
***FY 2015 Parking Lot Solar Photovoltaic Canopy with EV Chargers* Grant Program**

Program Description: Grants for parking lot solar photovoltaic (PV) canopy systems with at least four (4) electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

Eligible Entities: Businesses, State government agencies, local governments, and non-profits

Program Budget: Up to $2 million in fiscal year 2015, subject to funding availability, to cover two different "Areas of Interest"

Area of Interest I (AOI I): Businesses, non-profits, and local governments

Area of Interest II (AOI II): State agencies

Type of Grant Program: Competitive

Grant Award Amount: MEA will provide up to $500 per kW of PV installed per project, with a maximum cap of $250,000 per project.

Application Qualifications: To be considered for an award, a proposed project shall meet the following qualifications:

Area of Interest I (AOI I)

- Install at least 75 kW of solar PV panels mounted on a canopy structure over a parking lot.
- Install at least **four** qualified Level II or Level III electric vehicle charging stations that can be powered by the solar PV system.
- A qualified EV charging station must:
  - Be certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). A list of NRTL is available on the United States Department of Labor's website: https://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/.
  - Be equipped with a Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) J1772 electrical connector.

Area of Interest II (AOI II)

- The proposed project site has a minimum of 50 shade-free parking spaces.
- The proposed project site has a minimum load of 150,000 kWh/year attributed to an on-site State agency electric meter.
- The applicant exhibits control of the proposed project site, either as proof that the parking lot is owned by the State, or that it is part of a parcel of land that has a State lease with at least twenty-five years remaining

In addition, the State agency applying for the grant must have either a signed contract with an installing contractor or a letter of commitment signed by a senior official with the applying State agency.

Application Evaluation Criteria: MEA will assess qualifying applications for award based on the following criteria:

Area of Interest I (AOI I):

- The project's cost effectiveness (total project cost per Watt installed in the solar PV canopy system)
- The amount of the grantee's cost share for the proposed project (i.e., the amount of the MEA funding needed/Watt installed in the solar PV canopy system);
- The number of qualified electric vehicle chargers to be installed;
- Whether the project design and/or use is innovative; and
- The geographic diversity of grants awarded.

MEA will look favorably upon projects that have additional roof or ground mounted capacity installed in conjunction with a canopy system. (Please note, however, that MEA will not include roof mounted capacity in determining the grant amount or MEA's cost share.)

Area of Interest II (AOI II):

- Estimated visibility of the proposed carport and EV chargers;
- Estimated accessibility of the proposed carport and EV chargers;
- The frequency of parking lot use;
- The amount of area available for the proposed canopy parking lot site(s);
- The number of qualified electric vehicle chargers to be installed;
- Whether the project design and/or use is innovative; and
- Geographic diversity of grants awarded

Grant Project Requirements

For a grantee to be reimbursed under a Grant, the project shall:

- Install at least 75 kW of solar PV panels mounted on a canopy structure over a parking lot.
- Install at least **four** qualified Level II or Level III electric vehicle charging stations which can be powered by the solar PV system that are:
    - Certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). A list of NRTL is available on the United States Department of Labor's website: https://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/.
    - Equipped with a Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) J1772 electrical connector
- Be installed on a parking lot in Maryland which is accessible for use at least five days a week.
- Be installed and operated in compliance with the requirements of local and county codes, as well as with applicable requirements of the National Electrical Code (NEC).
- Use PV system hardware that is in compliance with all applicable performance and safety standards including: Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 1741, Standard for Static Inverters and Charge Controllers for Use in Photovoltaic Systems and UL 1703, and Standard for Safety: Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panel.
- Be installed in a manner that is compliant with the net metering regulations outlined in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 20.50.10 et seq., as well as the requirements of the local electric utility and Authority Having Jurisdiction.
- Be installed in a manner that is compliant with the with *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 929-2000, Recommended Practice for Utility Interface of Photovoltaic Systems*.

In addition, all PV systems must be installed by an installation contractor who employs at least one staff member with a current North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners ("NABCEP") Installation Certification; or, if the installation contractor employs at least 50 employees, at least one staff member with a NABCEP Installation Certification for every 25 non-administrative employees, unless the installation contractor has not been registered to do business in Maryland for 12 months prior to the submission of the grant application.

Application Deadline: March 2, 2015

Restrictions and Limitations:

- To receive grant funding for a project, the successful applicant must enter into a Grant Agreement with MEA by no later than April 30, 2015.
- A grant award will not be made for any project that starts construction prior to the effective date of the Grant Agreement with MEA.
- Prior to the start of construction, selected projects must be reviewed by the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) or the qualified historical preservation expert on MEA's staff to ensure that no historical property will be adversely impacted. MEA may require the Grantee to provide additional information concerning the proposed project site, in order to enable the historic preservation review.
- The following steps must be completed by each grantee by June 15, 2016:
    - Each project selected for award in Fiscal Year 2015 must be completed and in operation; and
    - Each Grantee must submit a complete P*arking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger* Grant Completion Package. [The *Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger* must consist of : a Completion Certificate; proof that the project is paid in full; copies of all inspection documents, permits, and licenses that are required to operate the project; and a photograph of the installed and operational project.]
- Only net metered projects will be considered for this grant program.
- MEA reserves the right to obligate all or none of the Fiscal Year 2015 *Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant Program* budget, based on the quality and eligibility of applications submitted to MEA.
- Projects on contiguous parcels of property will be considered one project.
- A project receiving a *Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger* Grant is ineligible to receive a Solar Commercial Clean Energy Grant, including a second *Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger* Grant.

For more information or assistance, please visit www.energy.maryland.gov or contact:

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